

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

PRS-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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P R 031021Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5209

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CJCS WASHDC

CIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3181

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MOPS CB

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION AT KAMPOT

REF: PHNOM PENH 3150

1. SUMMARY. HEAVY AIR AND NAVAL FIRE AND ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS HAVE PERMITTED FANK TO STABILIZE SITUATION IN KAMPOT. CHMEDTC AND AARMA, WHO ACCOMPANIED FANK CINC TO KAMPOT TODAY, FOUND CITY QUIET WITH NO SIGNS OF PANIC. FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS ARE NOW BEING BROUGHT IN FOR OPERATIONS TO REGAIN LOST GROUND. END SUMMARY.

2. FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ ACCOMPANIED BY MOST OF HIS KEY ASSISTANTS, CHMEDTC AND AARMA FEW TO KAMPOT THIS MORNING (MARCH 3) TO REVIEW SITUATION. THEY JOINED MR-8 COMMANDER BG ROS PROEUNG AND HIS STAFF, WHO ARRIVED PREVIOUS DAY. THEY FOUND CITY CALM AND UNDER ONLY LIGHT ENEMY PRESSURE.

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ENEMY HAS MADE NO SIGNIFICANT GAINS SINCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

LAST GROUND ATTACK REGISTERED AT 0530 THIS MORNING MARCH 3 AT KBAL ROMEAS TO EAST OF CITY WAS REPULSED WITH AIR ATTACKS. ONLY OTHER SIGNIFICANT ENEMY ACTION WERE TWO ABF'S OF 3 ROUNDS EACH OF 81MM MORTARS DIRECTED AT AIRFIELD AT 1100 AND 1300 TODAY. NEAREST ROUND FELL ABOUT 200 METERS FROM STRIP.

3. SOME 300 MEN FROM 2 BATTALIONS NORTHEAST OF KAMPOT ARE UN-ACCOUNTED FOR. THESE LOSSES WHEN COMBINED WITH UNDERSTRENGTH CONDITIONS OF LOCAL FORCES LEAVE GARRISON WITH ESTIMATED QUIVALENT OF ONE BATTALION AND 10 TERRITORIAL COMPANIES. THESE HAVE BEEN AUGMENTED BY ONE COMPANY FROM PHNOM PENH AND TWO FROM KOMPONG SOM AIRLIFTED TO KAMPOT YESTERDAY. SEALIFTED MARINE BATTALION FROM REAM ARRIVED SOMEWHAT LATER THAN EXPECTED BUT IS NOW IN CITY. FANK BEGAN TODAY TO AIRLIFT 20TH BRIGADE (ABOUT 1100 MEN) TO KAMPOT. THESE REINFORCEMENTS SHOULD PERMIT FANK TO REESTABLISH QUICKLY ORIGINAL PERIMETER AGAINST AN ENEMY FORCE WE ESTIMATE AT 50 TO 6 BATTALIONS.
ENDERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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